MASON'S

Coin and Stamp

COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

VOL. II. **JUNE, 1868.** No. 3.

PUBLISHED AT $1.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE,

BY E. MASON, Jr.,

No. 50 North Tenth Street,

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

William M. Yeakel, Printer, 23 North Sixth Street

MASON'S
COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'
MAGAZINE.

VOL. II. JUNE, 1868. No. 3.

ANTIQUARIAN RESEARCHES IN NORTH AMERICA.

By M. W. DICKESON, M. D.

(CONCLUDED.)

A similar vase has lately been found in the upper strata of a small mound on the premises of Mrs. Postlethwait, at Natchez, containing ashes and a similar lignite coin, but much more elaborately finished. (See fig. 4.)

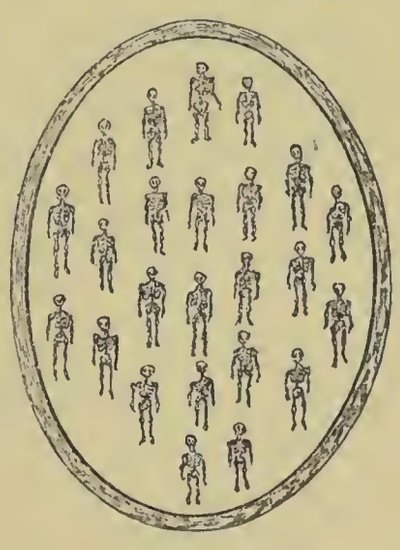
[Figure 4.]

Curious speculations arise in the inquisitive mind from contemplating these relics of untutored art, to supply the uses of the aborigines.

Were they the commodities of traffic? or were they the currency of ancient days of Indian independence? They were evidently highly prized by their owners.

"And last, the relics by themselves dispose,
Which in a brazen urn the priest inclose."

Beneath this came a stratum of dark loam, fourteen inches thick, containing seven rows of skeletons, lying on their backs and heading to the East, with their hands extending along the chest. There were twenty-four, and apparently all males. Their heads were flattened lengthwise, (with three exceptions), and what appears strange is, that all the mounds in the immediate neighborhood, and in the adjoining burial places in the same bottom, have the crania flattened in the upper or conical form. [See figs. 5 and 1.)



[Figure 5.]

By our careful system of dissecting the mounds, we were enabled to remove, entire, eleven heads, which were carefully placed upon a scaffolding used for drying cotton, in the cotton-gin yard; but, on the following day, there arose a severe storm, the seaffolding was blown down, and this broke into numerous pieces all, save two, of our valuable heads.

The regularity and elegant preservation of the teeth, excited the universal admiration of the party.

Below the skeletons, and capping of the altar, lay a stratum of coarse sand and loam, several inches thick. This we carefully examined, but found only two javelin points.

Removing this silicious mass, exposed broad to our view, the altar or hearth. This earthen floor occupied nearly the entire dimensions of the mound; it had a depression in the centre which was filled with ashes, coals, and burnt human bones.

It appears to have been constructed at three several times, in the following manner:—the centre bed had been formed with its depression, and when sufficiently dry, was covered with brushwood, and burnt hard.

Around its edges had been placed another layer, levelling it by the top of the former mass, and again burning it, and so on till finished.

These divisions have led many hasty investigators to form erroneous conclusions concerning them, and call them brick hearths, and to suggest that they were formed by the early French and Spanish.

Having satisfied ourselves of the contents of this structure, we set our force to fill up the excavation. When this was done, dismissing them, we repaired to a copse of timber, where were spread out the contents of sundry hampers, under the delightful foliage of a spreading cotton tree.

We seated ourselves upon the luxuriant green carpet of nature, and partook of a meal which kings (enthroned or abdicated) might have enjoyed. To our feet came bubbling out, from the bottom of a small ravine, one of the most delightful springs in the country; and its crystal waters glided gently by us, winding in sparkling curves to the river. It was a picturesque spot, the margin of a low level bottom of arable land extending for miles along the margin of the Mississippi River.

The cut heading this article is from a rough drawing taken on the spot by myself, but arranged in proper perspective by my much esteemed friend, C. J. Egan, Esq., an artist who, for grace of touch and accuracy, stands at the head of his profession.

The wooded bluffs, bordering on these low lands, are, in many places, upwards of two hundred feet high, and their summits are occasionally crowned with gigantic monuments of a by-gone people. These towers of antiquity, which once defied the attack of a hostile foe, and were the pride of its lordly possessors, lie a heap of deserted ruins! These hills, which have resounded to the song and the dance of the warrior, are now as silent as the grave!

"Like leaves on trees, the race of man is found,
Now green in youth, now withering on the ground;
So generations in their course decay,
So flourish these, when those are passed away."

Some of our party, after no little toil, gained the highest point of those bluffs. From this elevated position the scenery presented features of vast grandeur, and the dark outline of the distant hills filled us with admiration.

As we turned to the glorious west, and beyond the winding river, full to

our view came Louisiana—the Eldorado of America, with its Magnolia forests rising majestically. As we stood upon these heights, I bethought me of the gay, brilliant and sometimes bloody scenes that had been enacted there. Where are now the thousands that once thronged these glorious heights, girded in their warlike armor, and who fought even unto death for the defence of these their native hills? Where are they now? They have long since gone to the bar of God, where neither the victor's wreath nor the largest conquest of earth will avail them aught.

We descended the hill by a winding road, and found our comrades busily discussing the busy topics of the day. Our appearance concluded their conversation, and, our horses being in readiness, we returned home, well satisfied with the excursion.

HISTORY OF U. S. COINS.

BY E. M., JR.

Nickel Coins.

The subject of a new coinage to take the place of the cumbersome copper coins was agitated by the public press for a number of years, until an Act of Congress led to experiments in nickel, resulting in the small and convenient nickel cents of 1856.

After repeated experiments with the new metal and an alloy of copper, the Government adopted the small nickel cent, and in 1857 gave them general circulation—the 1856 being a pattern or experimental piece.

The obverse of the 1857 nickel cent presents the national emblem, the eagle, in the act of flying; around this the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; date 1857. Reverse, tobacco and corn wreath, having a few sprigs of wheat at the base, tied at the lower ends with a ribbon. Legend, (in two lines in centre,) ONE CENT. Size of the nickel cents, 16th, (American scale.) Issue 6,000,000.

1858. Same design as preceding. Issue 23,400,000. (The great difference in numbers this year, compared to the previous issue, is, doubtless, owing to the fact that a large number of the *copper* coins of '57 were put in circulation before the *nickel* '57's made their appearance.)

1859. Reverse, laurel wreath; obverse, this year, presents the so-called "Indian Head," partaking of the Indian characteristics only in the feathers ornamenting the head, and a simple string of beads around the neck.) A band across the forehead contains the legend LIBERTY. In other respects the 1859 nickel cent resembles the previous issues. Coinage 30,700,000.

1860. Reverse changed to oak wreath and shield; obverse same as preceding. Issue, 34,200,000.

1861. Same. Issue 10,166,000.
1862. " " 11,600,000.
1863. " " 47,845,000.

1864. The cents of this year were of two kinds—thick and thin dies; the former of *nickel*, the latter *bronze*. Whole issue of cents, 42,735,000.

The two-cent piece (*bronze*) appeared this year; size 16th, about the same as the U. S. copper half cents. Obverse, a shield, beneath which are two arrows crossed at right angles; suspended over the shield is a wreath; across the top a waved label containing the motto, (attributed to the late President Lincoln), "In God we Trust." Date 1864. Reverse, an oval wreath, in the centre the figure 2 and word CENTS beneath. Around the border the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Issue 1,822,500.

1865. The cents of this year were similar to the last, excepting in size.

Thin die only. Issue 54,180,000.

Two-cent pieces of '65 same as '64. Issue 26,780,000.

The first nickel 3-cent piece appeared this year. Obverse presents a plain wreath, with the numerals III in centre.

GOLD AND SILVER COINS OF THE WORLD.

With their value in U. S. coins.

Prepared for the convenience of Bankers, Brokers and Numismatists.

GOLD COINS.

Country.	Denomination.	Value.
Australia,	Pound of 1852 ·	$5.32.37
"	Sover'n of '55—'60	4.85.58
Austria,	Ducat, ...	2.28.28
"	Souvereign, . . .	6.75.35
"	New Union Crown, (assumed) .	6.64.19
Belgium,	25 Francs, . . .	4.72.03
Bolivia,	Doubloon, . . .	15.59.25
Brazil,	Twenty Milreis,	10.90.57
C. Amer'a,	Two Escudos, .	3.68.75
"	Four Reals, . . .	0.48.8
Chili,	Old Doubloon, .	15.59.26
"	Ten Pesos, . .	9.15.35
Denmark,	Ten Thaler, . .	7.90.01
Ecuador,	Four Escudos. .	7.55.46
England,	£ or Sovereign, new,	4.86.34
"	" average,	4.84.92
France,	20 Francs, new .	3.85.83
"	" average,	3.84.69
Germany, N.	Ten Thaler, .	7.90.01
" "	" Prussian,	7.97.07
" "	Krone, (Crown,)	6.64.20
" S.	Ducat, . . .	2.28.28
Greece,	Twenty Drachms,	3.44.19
Hindostan,	Mohur, . . .	7.08.18
Italy,	Twenty Lire, .	3.84.26
Japan,	Old Cobang, .	4.44.00
"	" .	3.57.6
Mexico,	Doubloon, average,	15.52.98
"	" new,	15.61.05
"	26 Pesos, (Max.)	19.64
Naples,	Six Ducati, new, .	5.04.43
Netherland,	10 Guilders, .	3.99.56
N. Grenada,	Old Doubloon, Bogota,	15.61.06
"	" Popayan,	15.37.75
"	Ten Pesos, . .	9.67.51
Peru,	Old Doubloon,	15.55.67
"	Twenty Soles,	19.21.8
Portugal,	Gold Grown, .	5.80.66
Prussia,	New Union Crown, (assumed),	6.64.19
Rome,	2½ Scudi, new, . .	2.60.47
Russia,	Five Roubles, . .	3.97.64
Spain,	100 Reals, ...	4.96.39
"	80 " . . .	3.86.44
Sweden,	Ducat, ...	2.23.72
Tunis,	25 Piastres, . . .	2.99.54
Turkey,	100 " . . .	4.36.93
Tuscany,	Seguin, ...	2.31.29
United States,	Double Eagle,	$20 00
"	Eagle, . . .	10 00
"	Half Eagle, . .	5 00
"	$3 piece, . .	3 00
"	Quarter Eagle, .	2 50
"	$1 piece, . . .	1 00

(To be Continued.)

PECULIARITIES OF AMERICAN COINS.

No. 4.

As there appears to be much ignorance respecting the different varieties of the 1839 cent, I propose to point out such marks of distinction as will enable the examiner to make them out readily. They are 4 in number, and known respectively as the 38 head, the bull or simple, or silly head, the booby head, and the 40 head.

1st. The 1839 cent with the '38 head is precisely like the cent of 1838, having a line under the word cent, and the mint mark or dot above that word on the reverse, and with no lock of hair over the forehead of the head.

With this year these peculiarities for ever disappear from our cent. This variety is the only one of the year *without the lock, and with the mint mark.*

2d. The Silly head is more arched on the top than the last; has the lock over the forehead *short*, and the line under the word Cent on the reverse, but *without the mint mark.*

3d. The Booby head has the lock over the forehead *longer*, has a shaggy eyebrow, and the hair at the bottom of the bust, instead of covering the back of the neck, is *turned behind it*, showing only a small curl beneath the bust. There is no line under the word Cent.

4th. The '40 head is smaller than the others, and scarcely at all arched. The lock of hair that has heretofore straggled in front of the ear, is not shown in this variety, which, with slight variations, is the head of our Cent afterwards to 1857 inclusive. The legend "United States of America," is in smaller letters and the line wanting.

This line under the word Cent began in the year 1816; the mint mark in 1793, but several years are without it, and in others it is quite small. Large and small dates were made during the following years, viz: 1807, '10, '12, '19, '25, '28, '40, '42, '46 and '57 cents, and 1849 half cent. Broad and narrow dates in 1818 and 1856. Date under head and to its left in 1843. Straight and slanting 5s in 1855, (the half cent is slanting.) Large and small stars in 1834 and 1835.

Over-strikes, or cents made from dies altered from the preceding year, I believe only appeared in 1798, 1800, 1807, 1810, 1811, 1820 and 1823. The half cent of 1802 is from the 1800 die.

There is a variety of the 1819 cent, large date, with the tail of the 9 nearly touching the centre. This looks like an overstrike; but, inasmuch as I cannot find any 1818 head corresponding with this, I conclude that the peculiarity is accidental. $

THE DISHEARTENED NUMISMATIST'S SOLILOQUY.

(*After Wm. S.*)

BY A "CRACKED DIE."

A coin or not a coin, that's the question:
Whether 'tis better to forego the dirty coppers,
Or to take up all the coins possessed,
And, by fire, melt them? To strive, to 'gun'
No more; and, by that fire, say we end
The 1's, the 9's, the 93's—the thousand "cards" of shops
That we have bought. 'Tis a consummation
Some wives devoutly wish. To melt,—to burn—
To lose, perchance, them all! Aye, there's the rub!
For in that loss of *all* what debts may come,
When we have melted down the last fine "red,"
Must give us pause; there's the respect
That's due to science, of e'er so long a life.
For who would bear the numismatists' slurs,
The loss of coins, time, money—the contumely,
When he himself to Mason* might sell them all.
Or his quietus make by public "coin sale."
Upon second thought, I'll spare my coins,
Tho, short of "proofs," of "patterns" fine.
'Tis better to keep the poorest cent we have,
Than fly to "Romans" that we know not of;
Thus FEAR makes cowards in most events
And, on the whole, I guess I'll *keep my cents!*

* Coin Dealer in Philada.

HARPER'S BAZAR ON COINS.

A gentleman was riding on the outside of a coach to Ilfracombe, when the driver said to him, "I've had a coin guv me to-day two hundred year old. Did you ever see a coin two hundred year old?" "Oh, yes; I have one, myself, two thousand years old." "Ah," said the driver, "have ye," and spoke no more during the rest of the journey. When the coach arrived

at its destination, the driver came up with an intense self-satisfied air, and said, "I told you, as we druv along, I had a coin two hundred year old." "Yes." "And you said to me as how you had one two thousand year old." "Yes, so I have." "Now, it's a lie." "What do mean by that?" What do I mean! Why, it's only 1867 now." And they tell me that the schoolmaster is abroad.

HISTORY OF THE PATTERN, OR EXPERIMENTAL COINS OF THE UNITED STATES.

With their Fictitious Value.

BY E. M., JR.

Continued.

The "Washington Half Dollar," struck in silver, bears a near resemblance to the 1791 small eagle Washington-Cents. This pattern half dollar has, on the obverse, military bust of Washington. Legend, G. WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT, 1792. Reverse, a spread eagle, olive branch and arrows in the talons. Legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. 13 stars are dotted above and around the head of the eagle.

There is pretty strong evidence that the pattern Washingtons of 1792 included a silver dollar, with precisely the same obverse and reverse as the half dollar.

The Dollar is known to be in the possession of a gentlemen in Schuylkill Haven, Pa., and is valued at $500.

The Washington Half Dollar worth, when fine, $300. The "Dismes" of 1792, or Dimes, were struck in silver and copper, being of about equal fictitious value.

There was issued, in 1794, a pattern dollar struck in copper; also, dimes in both silver and copper. The 1794 pieces are exceedingly rare, and but few specimens are known. The 1794 dollar, in silver, bears the design and devices of all the early silver dollars. Obverse, Head of Liberty, flowing hair, 15 stars, date 1794. Reverse, the so called "Crow Eagle," with wings expanded, standing on clouds, or perhaps mountain caps. Legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Copper dollar and half dollar of 1794 bear the same characteristics as the silver dollar. The 1794 silver dime differs from the '92 silver disme.

(*To be Continued.*)

NEW COINS.

The new 5-cent coins from the Mint in Philadelphia are the size of the present piece. The 3-cent piece and 1-cent piece are somewhat smaller. The devices on all of them are alike: on one side the head of the Goddess of Liberty, surrounded by the words "United States of America;" on the other side are the Roman numerals I, III, and V.

These coins are of the new metal aluminium, and are very handsome and uniform in appearance. ThePattern 10 cent piece, in aluminium, is out. Obverse, (similar to the old copper cents 1840 to 1857,) head of Liberty surrounded by 13 stars, date 1868. Reverse, a plain wreath containing, in two lines, the words "TEN CENTS;" around the wreath, legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Size 16.

REVIVAL OF THE COIN TRADE.

The trade in coins is again becoming active, and promises to continue lively, if we may judge by the throngs of customers in the coin stores in New York, Boston and Philadelphia. In this city coins are pouring in to the dealers by the keg, and we may say, in our own

case, by the bushel.

Collectors are getting choice pieces, and not a few are purchasing with a view to public sales as a speculation. The "Nippes" collection, which has so long been on the tapis, is being catalogued, and will be pushed to an early sale.

Mr. Randall, of this city, will offer at public sale, in the fall, a choice collection of rare and fine silver and copper coins. A sale has recently taken place in Boston, by Leonard & Co., Auctioneers, and was well attended. Three sales have occurred since our last. in Canada.

Mr. W., the engineer of the "Miekley Sale," is negotiating for a $14,000 collection, for public sale, and our old friend, Miekley, it is rumored, is about to come into possession of the celebrated coin collection of Dr. Clay, Manchester, England.

Coins are low in price, and all looks serene with Numismatists.

NEW STAMP ISSUES.

PARAGUAY.

There is a stamp out for this republic, containing the representation of an ocean steamer under full sail and steam. The stamp is rectangular, with an oval centre; top and bottom of which are the words REPUBLIC DEL PARAGUAY; upon the ends, CINCO CENT; in each corner the figure 5.

MADEIRA.

A provisional issue for this island is out, stamped same as those of the Azores, with the word MADEIRA.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

A new stamp resembling the Jamaica sixpenny, with a profile head of the Queen. The stamp, in shape, rectangular; the four corners serolled and separated by angles, containing labels with the words NEW SOUTH WALES, POSTAGE FOURPENCE. Printed dull red on white, perforated and watermarked, with the figure 4,—single lines.

MEXICO.

This country has completed her current series in the 2 reales, black on lilac, and the 4 reales, red on yellow.

TURKEY.

The Turkish Government, we learn *via* the *Timbrophile* (from France), has a complete series of adhesive and envelopes ordered, of same values as heretofore, but differing in design.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A new series in preparation.

SAXONY.

Another set of local stamps from the Dresden Co., are in course of emission, viz;

¼	grosehen,	green
⅓	"	violet.
½	"	orange.
1	"	red.
1	"	blue.

"VOILA TOUT" YOURSELF.

The *Philatelist*, for May, in reviewing the commencement of the Second Vol. of our Journal, uses the following language in regard to the April number:

"Out of its ten pages, somewhere about that number of lines are devoted to philately, and that only in the shape of a couple of replies to queries, one of which states that 'other stamp matter is crowded out.' There is also half a column of price list. 'Voila tout'! We are, however, bound to add that the coin department is replete with interest and information."

In reply to our foreign cousins, we feel a shrinking delicacy in attributing the *errors* of the above notice to indulgence in 'alf and 'alf, or sober, serious

malice aforethought. Yet, there is a strange ignorance of the contents of the April magazine manifested in the misstatements we have quoted.

Instead of ten lines of stamp matter there is nearly *six times* that amount. Instead of that stamp matter being compassed by a "c uple of replies to queries," it is mostly editorial matter. Instead of half a column of priced catalogue, there is *half a page.*

With a peculiar inconsistency, the *Philatelist* quotes *nineteen* lines from our magazine, exclusively philatelic matter! And this from the very April number which, it says, contains but *ten lines!*

In the name of common sense and philatelic uprightness, how do you solve this mathematical problem, *nineteen from ten?*

Ah! Messieurs Editors, you have left the *gate open* this time, and should be more circumspect in your independent criticisms. We trust that you will notice in the succeeding or May number that coins take a back seat, while philately rides triumphantly in the van.

AN ORIGINAL LETTER OF GEN. WASHINGTON.

BERGEN COUNTY, in the STATE OF NEW JERSEY, Oct. 9, 1780.

Dear Sir :—I was very much obliged by the letter which you did me the honor to write me by our amiable young friend, the Marquis De La Fayette, whose exertions to serve this country in his own, are additional proofs of his zealous attachment to our cause, and has endeared him to us still more.

"He came out flushed with the expectations of a decisive campaign and fired with hopes of acquiring fresh laurels, but in both he has been disappointed; for we have been condemned to an inactivity as inconsistent with the situation of our affairs as with the ardor of his temper.

"I am sensible of all I owe you, my Dear Sir, for your sentiments of me, and while I am happy in your esteem, I cannot but wish occasions of giving you marks of mine.

"The idea of making a tour together, which you suggest, after the war, would be one of the strongest motives I could have to postpone my plan of retirement and make a visit to Europe, if my domestic habits, which seem to acquire strength from restraint, did not tell me, I shall find it impossible to resist them longer than my duty to my country calls for the sacrifice of my inclinations.

"I doubt not you are fully informed by Congress of our political and military state, that it would be superfluous to trouble you with anything relating to either. If I were to speak on topics of the kind, it would be to show that our present position makes one of the two things essential to us: Peace, or the most vigorous aid of our allies, particularly in the article of money. Of their disposition to serve us we cannot doubt; their generosity will do everything their means will permit.

"With my best wishes for the preservation of your useful life, and for every happiness that can attend you which a sincere attachment can dictate.

"I am, my Dear Sir,

"Yr. Most Obed. & Hbl. Servt.

"GO. WASHINGTON.

"His Excelly, Doc. B. Franklin."

CORRESPONDENCE.

Pitts, April 30th.

MASON & Co.,

Dear Sirs: Your last letter was received about ten days ago, since then I have had another letter from 'Gibbs,' that Canadian. The following is a copy of the last letter :

Cornwall, April 16th,

J. H. R.—*Sir:*—If you dont want that order, please send it back as I do not wish to lose it. Yours Respectfully, R. ANTHONY GIBBS.

The letter was small but very emphatic. I will not send it back unless he comes for it. I am satisfied he will not do so.

Mess. Mason & Co., I am raising a club to subscribe for your magazine, I have so far got three subscribers, but I will not send them to you until I get six. I inclose you some names some of pretty good Coin collectors of this city. S. A., JR.

Traverse City, Mich., April 15, '68.

Gents :

Perhaps the following account of a medal that has just come to light up here in the woods may prove of interest to your readers :

The medal is of silver, 3 inches in diameter. Obverse, medallion bust of George III, crowned with a wreath of laurel (!) A cloak is thrown over the shoulders, and fastened on the breast with a large bow, just beneath which, where the cloak flares open, is a St. George and the dragon, plainly cut. A jewelled circlet is thrown over the cloak around the shoulders.

Legend : Georgios III, Dei Gratia Britanniarum Rex, F. D. Below the bust, in small letters, the name T. Wyon. Jun. :s: Reverse, the English coat of arms covering the whole surface, with the usual rose, shamrock and thistle, and the date 1814.

There is nothing remarkable in the medal itself, but its history is interesting. An old Indian Chief died a short time ago, at the headquarters of his tribe, a few miles from this village, and after his death this medal was found on his person. He had carried it, suspended around his neck, for more than *fifty years.*

Squa-ga-na-ba was the princpal chief of the Ottawa tribe of Indians. At his death he was, probably, 95 years old, and as fine a specimen of that fast passing away race as ever I saw. His face was seamed and scarred with many a bullet and blow from his enemies in battle; but it still retained that fierce, proud look that characterize his race before the white man attempted to teach them civilization, by supplying them with whisky and gunpowder.

Squa-ga-na-ba was the "Great Chief" of his tribe, and also of the Chippewas in Michigan. Seventy-five years ago, the two tribes around Mackinac and Grand Traverse were controlled (one cannot say governed) by several petty Chiefs, but Squa-ga-na-ba was Chief over all.

Many a wild legend is told of his daring deeds, his great strength and prowess. He was present at the River Raisin massacre, and for his services in killing and scalping at that time, the English government gave him a beautiful silk flag, with silver-mounted staff.

The medal I have described was given him by the English government to commemorate the treaty between his tribe and themselves.

As the medal lies before me, I cannot but gaze upon it with interest, while, at the same time, I shrink from

contact with it as the *price of blood.* I look out upon the beautiful waters of our Bay, glistening in the warm April sunshine, and all is very quiet and peaceful; but away in the blue distance is Mackinac, and I can hear the shrieks and groans of the dying, and the wild war cry of Squa-ga-na-ba and his band, and I push the medal from me in disgust and loathing—*the price of blood.* T. T. B.

Lewisburg, Feb. 24th, 1868.

Gentlemen: Please place my name on your list of subscribers to your valuable little Magazine for the ensuing year—in fact you can count me as a "life member."

I have been instrumental, I believe, in adding a few names to your list, for which, however, I claim no credit, nor deserve any, as your journal has only to be seen by a collector to be appreciated, and subscribed for as indispensable. G. H. F.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gents.: I cheerfully submit to the advance of *fifty cents* in the subscription price of your magazine. The first volume of your magazine, at one dollar, certainly was all that any reasonable man could ask, at that low price. It appears to me that every collector of coins, &c., in the United States, ought to sustain such a publication, if it cost twice that price.

Respectfully, T. C.

Mason & Co. *Gents:*

Enclosed I send you an impression of a coin in my possession which I do not find on any of the coin charts Please inform me what you will pay for it. The impression is poor as I am unaccustomed to the business. On one side a horses head and an old fashioned plow, the date 1788, and the word "Nova Caesarea; on the other side, a shield and the motto of the United States, *E. Pluribus Unum.*

Very respectfully, R. W. McB.

[New Jersey Colonial Coin, value if good, 25 cents.—Ed.]

Providence, April 10th, '68.

Mr. Mason,

Dear Sir:—As a collector of coins I feel great interest in the preservation of my favorites and wishing to do my part in keeping them from injury, I forward the following receipts for cleaning and keeping them bright:

For cleaning them I make a kind of soft soap, by mixing 1 part of Ammonia to 3 parts sweet oil; I cover the coin with this soap and let it remain on for one day or more according to its condition, then wash in hot water with more soap and polish with the finest tripoli or Spanish white.

For keeping Mint cents with all their original lustre, I make a varnish of *proof* alcohol and white shellac, heat the coin in hot water, wipe dry and while hot cover with a thin coat of varnish.

I know that there is a prejudice against covering coins with any preparation, those who object say that it eats into the coin, &c., but anybody can see that there is nothing in this that can in any way be injurious to it. It excludes the air and effectually prevents oxydation and if at any time you wish to remove it you have only to dip it in alcohol and it will wash off.

I have tried both of these receipts and have found them to be very good, answering every purpose for which they are intended.

Yours respectfully, N. W. P.

[We cannot endorse the above, being of those who "object to coin varnishing and polishing in toto."—Ed.]

Westfield, Mass., May 1st, '68.

Gentlemen:—I beg to inform you that I have for sale the best and oldest book in the World, it is one of the celebrated Dr. Culpepper's works, on Surgery and Anatomy and illustrated with twelve engravings all perfeet. The book is written in English and in good state of preservation. If it would answer your purpose I can take two hundred dollars for it; it is dated from 1657, no less offer will do.

Yours respectfully, G. F. J.

[We give the above an insertion for the purpose of exhibiting an instance of the remarkable prices some persons attach to articles of very little value. If the above work is the "oldest in the world," no doubt it would be cheap at the priee; but there are many works dating a eentury at least earlier than 1657.—Ed.]

Pottstown, Penna., March 31st, '68.

Mason & Wells,

Gentlemen: On looking over your Magazine, I find that your terms are $1,50 for the present year. I am thus made aware, that I have sent too small an amount, and that I am still indebted to you to the amount of 50 eents. As you are Coin dealers, you can eertainly have no objection to the reeeption of specie. I therefore enclose fifty eents in silver.

I was greatly pleased with my visit to your office yesterday. If it were not for the fact, that I may perhaps dispose of my entire collection of coins within a few weeks, I would have been greatly tempted to make considerable purchases. I must confess that the eoin-fever has sensibly abated in my ease, since I have devoted my attention almost exclusively to autographs. If, however, I should make up my mind to retain my collection, I will make an earnest effort to increase it, and it is probable, in that case, you will hear from me more frequently than you have hitherto done.

I remain, very truly Yours, J. H. B.

[We acknowledge the receipt of the bright silver half-dollar and so great has been our joy to see "specie payments," that we have put the glistening treasure in a little box as the first half-dollar reeeived in trade since the suspension of specie payments.—Ed.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE.

S. T., Phila.—"There seem to be many evidences that a raee of people existed in North America prior to the Indian tribes. Mounds and fortifieations abound in the valleys of the Mississippi and the Ohio, which display too mueh design and intelligence in their construetion to have been erected by the latter inhabitants. Some of these mounds are more than fifty feet in height, and some of the forts were eonstructed after the most strictly mathematieal principles. Works of art consisting of artieles metallie and earthen, have also been exhumed near these remains, and everything bears evidence of great antiquity. The ruins of temples and eities in Mexico and Central America resembles those of the eastern eontinent. There are now no definite annals nor even traditions to tell of these antiquities. What few parchments the Aztecs had eolleet d in referenee to their own history, were destroyed by the Spanish invaders, and thus the only chain of knowledge that linked the past of America with the present was broken forever. Many works pertain to this subject, but as everything except the few objeets above mentioned is mere conjecture, but little satisfaction is derived from their

perusal. Stephen, Prescott and Bancroft have written concerning this mystery. That some such anterior race lived is generally credited."

[Subscribe for Dickeson's new work,—now in press—on antiquities and you will receive additional light on the subject.—Ed.]

E. P. G.—"I have a copper coin with packs of cards on each side, no inscription. Where, when and by whom was it struck."

[By Hart, manufacturer of playing cards, Philadelphia, some 8 or 10 years ago.—Ed.]

Query.—"Thaler" is the original word for dollar and is derived from Austria—having been in use in that country three centuries ago.

M. P., Dover, N. H.—An ounce of silver, of standard fineness, is calculated at U. S. Mint, Philadelphia, at $1,22½ (in coin). The branch Mints at Dahlonega, Ga., New Orleans, Charlotte, N. C., ceased coining in 1861, while San Francisco and Denver Mints continue in operation to the present.

S. L., New Haven.—U. S. cents of 1821 are very scarce and a very fine one is worth $5. Of the '30's, 1834 and 1835 are considered scarce.

THE ABORIGINAL ANTIQUITIES OF NORTH AMERICA.

Our distinguished contributor, Dr. M. W. Dickeson, is preparing, and will shortly put to press, a very elaborate and exhaustive work on the Aboriginal Antiquities of this country, illustrated with magnificent plates. This work will be, when completed, the largest and most valuable book ever issued in America.

There will be three volumes issued at intervals of three months—Part the First appearing as soon as the work can possibly be executed. Subscription price $5 per volume.

Those of our readers wishing to subscribe will please send their names to this office, and the amount of subscription will be collected when the book is delivered. To those who are familiar with the splendid "Manual of American Coins" by Dr. Dickeson, we would say that each volume of the forthcoming work will be about the size of the "Manual," and contain 16 plates, illustrating the coins, curiosities, etc., of the aborigines.

An edition of only 200 copies of Vol. 1st will be issued. We shall announce the time of publication in our next number.

PRIZES.

No. 1.—Silver proof set, 10 pieces, $1 to 1 cent inclusive, will be given to the person forwarding a club of 25 subscribers to Volume 2nd of this Magazine.

No. 2.—A shield engraved by U. S. Treasury Department, containing a genuine note of every issue of Fractional and Postage currency (50 cent to 3 cent notes), including two 15 cent notes, red and green backs, written and printed signatures, for a club of 20 subscribers.

No. 3.—Two 15c. notes for a club of 5 names.

This offer to remain open from June 1st to Oct. 1st.

At an auction in New York on Tuesday, a copy of Eliot's Indian Bible, a very old and rare American Book, was sold for $1130. The New York Tribune says, this is the highest price ever paid for a printed book in this country, and that the volume sold is "a work which no living man can read."

MASON'S

Price List of Coins, &c., for Sale.

JUNE, 1868.

Silver Dollar, common dates, each	$2 00
" Halves, " "	1 00
" Quarters, " "	50
Proof Sets, '59 to '63	6 00
" '64 to '67	7 00
" '68	5 50
" 5c. to 1c., inclusive	50
Pattern, '5[illegible] cent	1 25
" '54 "	1 50
" '56 nickel	1 50
" '58 Indian Head	1 50
" ½ cents	$5 00 to 40 00
1791 Washington Cent, good,	$ 5 00
1793 Wreath " "	3 00
1793 Link " "	4 00
1793 Liberty Cap, " "	10 00
1799 & 1804 " poor,	2 00
1799 & 1804 " good,	5 00
1809 " "	1 00
Rosa Americana Penny "	3 50
" " Half Penny, good	2 06
Pine Tree Shilling, "	5 00
" " Sixpence "	4 00
" " Threepence "	5 00
" " Twopence, very good	6 00
Liberty and Security, 1795 "	3 50
" " large "	2 00
Louisiana Cent, R. F., "	1 00
" " 1722, "	2 00
Louisiana Cent, 1721, good	3 00
Virginia Cent, 1773, "	1 00
" " very fine	3 50
N. Y., (Nova Eborac,) good	1 50
Maximilian Dollars	$2 00
" " extra	3 00
U. S. 15 cent Notes, red back	1 00
" " " green back	50
Good New Jersey Cent	15
" Connecticut Cent	15
" Vermont Cent	50
" Virginia Cent	50
" Massachusetts Cent	75
" " half cent	1 50
" Franklin cent	75
Set of U. S. cents, (rare excepted)	10 00
" " half cents	3 00
1794 Silver Half Dollar, very good	1 25
1796 " Quarter " "	2 00
1859 Nickel, '58 Reverse	1 50
" " '60 "	1 50
1850 to 1857 Cents, fine, each	25
1840 to 1849 " " "	50
1830 to 1839 " " "	75
1820 to 1829 " " "	75
1794 to 1814 " " " 3 00	1 00
1817, 1818 & 1819 Uncirculated, each	1 00
Medals, Autographs, &c. &c.	

☞ This list will be added to and corrected monthly. Send all orders to

E. MASON, Jr., Coin Dealer,
No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia.

COIN MANUALS.

Dickeson's large and magnificient Illustrated work on Coins, containing the gold, silver, copper and nickel Coins of the U. S., (largest work in the world) sent by express on receipt of	$9 00
Prime's Illustrated Coin Manual	3 50
Mason's Work on American Coins	2 00
" " " " " unbound	1 50
" Coin Priced Mannal	25
" Monthly Coin Magazine, per annum	1 50

FOR SALE.

A fine Collection of

1375 COPPERHEADS.

One half being in sets, formed of various metals, 81 are in silver, making a choice and fine collection of vary rare tokens of the war. Address,

HENRY GROH,
Box 1205, New York P. O.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS,

IN COLORS,

25 Cents per Sheet.

E. MASON, JR.,
50 North 10th St., Phila.

ALBANY & TROY AGENCY.

George M. Payfer,

TROY, N. Y.,

Is our only authorized Agent for the cities of Albany, Troy and surrounding towns for Coin and Stamp Magazine.

Subscriptions will be received at this Agency for the first and second volumes of this Magazine.

E. MASON, Jr.

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER."

"TO THE LOVERS OF CURIOSITIES."

A RARE THING.

Photograph of the Ballad as published in Baltimore, Maryland, A. D. 1815.

Copies mailed, post-paid, on receipt of 50 cents. Address,

N. FOLWELL,
718 S. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.